

RG: 59

ENTRY: CDF. 1960-63

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File Designation 817,432/8-3160 CAA  
Desp 76  
Date 31 August 1960  
From Amemb Managua  
To Stat/W

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NND 928722  
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June 4, 1993  
Date

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PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

(Security Classification)

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817.432/5-1861

## FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy MANAGUA

442

DESP. NO.

MAY 20 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 18, 1961

DATE

REF : CERP, Section D, Item VI-A-4

55 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D 5/22	IN F O I NA-7 ARA-4 CU-5 IO-4 CIA-10 USEA-10

SUBJECT: New Catholic University in Managua Reportedly Ready to Begin Operation in June 1961.

The Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), the new Catholic university which is being organized in Managua by the Jesuit order, and which has already been legally recognized by the Nicaraguan Government, reportedly has a full student body signed up and is ready to begin operations in June of this year. Up to now, Nicaragua has had only one university, the National Autonomous University, based in the departmental capital of Leon.

Reportedly 202 students have signed up for the first student body of UCA, this being the maximum number of students which can be accommodated in the UCA's temporary quarters. The total number includes 60 law students, 68 engineering students, and 74 students of business administration and labor-management relations. Sixteen members of the student body are women, including the only foreigner (from Costa Rica).

The opening day for classes is set for June 5. The national inauguration of the university is scheduled for June 15.

The Rector of UCA, Father Leon FALLAIS, is quoted as stating that about 30 of the students will need financial support, and he has asked publicly for such support from sympathetic firms and individuals. It is said that several companies, political and religious groups and private individuals have already promised to support the studies of one or two students each.

For the Ambassador:

*Kenedon Steins*  
Kenedon Steins  
Second Secretary of Embassy

KPSSteins:vk

REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION	ACTION TAKEN	DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
ASSIGNED TO:			
NAME OF OFFICER			
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ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

817.432/5-1861

FILED  
JUN 6 1961  
LWS



# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy MANAGUA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

392  
No.

JUN 9 1962  
June 7, 1962  
DATE

For Department Use Only

817.432/6-762

XN. 7/7.001

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SUBJECT: Opposition Newspaper Attacks Communists and Fellow-Travelers in National University

The Embassy considers worthy of transmittal in translation the following editorial, which appeared on June 7 in opposition newspaper La Prensa under the title "Red Freedom - Communists in the University of Nicaragua":

"Although it happened on February 11 of this year, it is not until now that we have learned that the communist Federación de Trabajadores de Managua recognized the National University of Nicaragua 'as the only university authorized to grant degrees and titles in Nicaragua, and as the university which enjoys the right to control and supervise private universities and exercise authority over them as a guarantee of higher education'.

"This important pronouncement had not been divulged even in the little newspapers that the communists publish in Managua and it now comes to our attention only because it has appeared published in the University Gazette, the official publication of the National University of Nicaragua, in its issue of last March. We say this pronouncement is important because the Rector of the University has said that he does not fear the 'phantom' of communism, an attitude which permits him to negotiate for money from the U.S. and to open the University classrooms to communist professors while he closes them to Catholic priests no matter how wise or learned the latter may be.

"Thus Nicaragua marches 'toward freedom through the university'. The University Gazette praises Nicaragua's communist workers for having declared themselves in the above-mentioned manner and on the same front page it prints in bold letters a paragraph which contains falsehoods about the Central American University.

Kenedon Steins:wk

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FORM 8-61 FS-439 GPO 812596

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JUN 13 1962

4-14-62



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Page 2 of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. 392  
From Managua

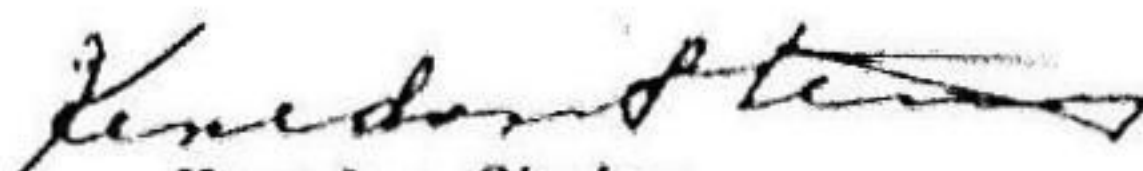
Rector of the Catholic University and other high-ranking functionaries of that University do not have academic degrees and this would invalidate their authority in any university in the world'.

"There is not a single professor at the National University, however, who can boast more graduate degrees than Father Manuel Ignacio PEREZ Alonso, the Director of the Institute of Historical Studies at the Central American University, to cite a single case in refutation of the first assertion contained in the paragraph quoted. And if recognition of the diplomas that will be awarded by the authorities of the Central American University depends on their possession of degrees, then the students of that University have nothing to worry about with respect to their professional future.

"It is curious that while our fellow-editor José Francisco BORDEN was combating the dictatorial pretensions of the Rector of the National University, not one voice from a professor or a pupil of that University was to be heard in defense of the Rector's arguments. It had to be the communists who defended those arguments, and this may help us to discover why the Rector said 'that he does not fear them'. Of course he does not fear them. It is the learned priests that he fears.

"It was not by chance that, when the recently completed summer courses were being organized, lay professors of the Central American University were invited, but the knowledge of the psychologist Father CHINCHILLA and of the historian Father Pérez Alonso was disregarded. On the other hand, a course in sociology for workers in León was entrusted to the communist Professor Pedro CONRADO."

For the Ambassador:



Kenedon Steins  
Second Secretary of Embassy

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Communists and their front organizations naturally sought to identify themselves with the student demonstrations. Among their successes was the participation of Manuel PEREZ Estrada, well-known communist leader (and not a student), in the list of speakers at a memorial ceremony in the National University's Faculty of Economics. End Unclassified.

Begin Official Use Only

COMMENT: Nicaragua in general, and the GON in particular, are lucky that the July-23 anniversary has passed this year without major violence, for the first time since 1959. This circumstance is all the more remarkable in view of the general political tension of an election year coupled with the bitterness currently prevailing over the needlessly brutal killing last week of an oppositionist named Carlos Alvarado in his own house in Leon by two plainclothesmen who broke in to arrest him.

For the Ambassador:



Kenedon Steins  
Second Secretary of Embassy



ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**AIRGRAM**

817.432/8-36

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RM/R	REP	AF
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A-42

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AIR POUCH

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE 1962 AUG 10 AM 8 47

FROM : Amembassy MANAGUA

SUBJECT : Central American University Protests Snub  
by OAS Educational Mission

REF :

Begin Unclassified

RM/AN  
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH

AUG 4 1962

DATE:

August 13 1962  
File P.3  
no action required  
8-15-62

On July 10-12, 1962, Nicaragua was visited by a three-man mission from the OAS, for the purpose of seeking ways to improve the teaching of basic sciences at the university level in Central America. This mission consisted of Mr. Jesse PARKINSON, Director of the Panamerican Union's Department of Scientific Affairs, as chairman; plus one Mexican and one Colombian member.

This mission devoted all of its time in Nicaragua to the National University, much to the discomfiture and indignation of Nicaragua's other university, the new, private, Catholic institution - Central American University. Local surprise at the snub, apparently extended gratuitously to the latter university by the OAS, broke into public print in a front-page article in Managua's leading newspaper, La Prensa, on July 13. The Rector of the Catholic University subsequently addressed a strong protest to OAS Secretary General José MORA, with copies to this Embassy and to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington.

La Prensa's article carried the headline "University Mission From The OAS Is Not Interested in Private Education". Pertinent paragraphs from the newspaper article follow in translation:

"... The above-mentioned university mission from the OAS had announced its mission officially to the Central American University. The University sent to receive it a commission of professors and deans and had a report prepared, but after routine greetings the OAS mission revealed that its plans did not include contact with private

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: KPSLEins:vk  
Clearance:

Contents and Classification Approved by:  
DCM - L. F. Blanchard



universities.

"It has been commented that, while communism knows where it is going and follows a straight line toward its objectives, the democracies are full of contradictions and present a front which is chaotic and contradictory instead of logical and unified. While in the economic sphere, more for material reasons than ideological ones, attempts are made to promote private initiative throughout the Hemisphere, in the cultural and educational sphere that motive is abandoned and no effort is made to assist the private enterprises necessary for the education of our people; it is a single-minded, anti-democratic criterion which prevails.

"The OAS mission did not come, as the Secretariat of the OAS had announced, to visit the Central American University, nor did it show any interest in the noteworthy effort that University has realized, providing more educational opportunity to many young people of limited economic resources and thereby enriching our national level of culture which so needs the cooperation of all, both official and private sectors. It is feared that the step taken by the OAS is the result of a prejudiced mentality since it involves the university which is Catholic as well as private.

"Such a way to operate, in a Hemisphere which claims to be raising the flag of Christianity against communism, turns out to be sadly ironical. At least, this was the impression of a large part of Nicaragua's thinking citizenry in view of the attitude of the OAS mission. Let us hope this attitude will be rectified in time to benefit the common cause for which the National University as well as the Central American University must fight together."

As mentioned above, Father León PALLAIS Godoy, Rector of the Central American University, wrote a long letter of protest on July 16 to the OAS Secretary General. He began by setting forth at length the already long-standing feud between Nicaragua's two universities, persisting, because the National University insists in denying the Central American University the status of equality and the Consejo Superior Universitario Centro-Americano (CSUCA) - formed entirely of the region's national universities - echoes the attitude of Nicaragua's National University and refuses to have anything to do with the newcomer. Father Pallais says that the Nicaraguan Government has sought to put an end to this feud: "the President of the Republic himself asked the Rector of León to attend a meeting of both Rectors together with the Minister of Public Education, but the Rector of León did not keep the appointment." (The National University is based at the city of León.)

Father Pallais, in his letter, went on to point out that he was informed of the imminent visit of the OAS mission to Managua and asked to cooperate with it, by the OAS office in Nicaragua and by the Nicaraguan Ministries of Education and Foreign Relations. The Rector said that his University sent several of its faculty and administration members to the airport to meet the mission, but that from the start the mission told them they had no time to visit the Central American University or consider the report it had prepared in advance for them.



Nevertheless, said Father Pallais, he sent a telegram to the mission chairman, Mr. Parkinson, at his hotel, repeating the greeting and invitation for a visit: "I did not even receive a reply to the telegram".

Again, at a diplomatic reception in honor of the visitors, the Central American (Catholic) University tried once more to invite them to pay a visit, but apparently in vain. The Rector claimed further that the Minister of Education asked the mission members, before they left Managua, if they had visited the Catholic University, and they answered that they had not had time. The University Rector ended his letter to the OAS Secretary General expressing the hope that the latter would "understand our struggle to go forward in spite of a malicious and unjustified battle waged against us by the national universities of Central America sustained by the CSUCA with the full knowledge that almost all of those universities are nests of seditious and communistic activities". End  
Unclassified

Begin Official Use Only

COMMENT: The CSUCA and the public universities that belong to it undoubtedly discriminate all they can against a private institution such as the Catholic, Central American University in Nicaragua. The Panamerican Union appears unfortunately to have swallowed the CSUCA line, although the OAS representative in Managua, as well as the GON, saw no reason for the OAS mission not to offer its services to both of the country's universities.

The incident of this mission's visit, therefore, further embitters the struggling new University and its friends against the discrimination of which they are constantly aware. What adds to their bitterness - although it is somewhat beside the point - is the fact that Father Pallais' statement about universities like Nicaragua's National University as "nests of seditious and communistic activities" is all too true. The Catholic University Rector and his friends feel - and with some justification - that OAS technical assistance should aid the firm friends of OAS objectives at least as much as, if not more than, the questionable friends of those objectives.

It is not only the reputation of the OAS which is at stake in this matter. The Nicaraguan public by and large looks upon the activities of the Panamerican Union as being powerfully influenced by the U.S. Government, especially in a case in which the chairman of an OAS mission is an American.

For The Ambassador:

*Kenedon Steins*

Kenedon Steins  
Second Secretary of Embassy

*Paul Sci Dept Tld me  
Sy G mora wrote Cath U.  
Rector explaining -  
BNU*

*\$*



ARA-4

# AIRGRAM

VR 813-432

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RM/R 1	REP 1	AP
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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1962 DEC 17 AM 9 18

GUATEMALA-1  
San Jose-1  
San Salvador-1  
TEGUCIGALPA-1

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy, MANAGUA

DATE:

DEC 15 1962

SUBJECT: Regional Approach to Economic Assistance.

REF :

JOINT EMBASSY-USAID-USIS

As I review the various conversations I had in Washington last week on the subject of the IDB loan to the five national universities of Central America, it seems that I found myself confronted by two difficult and almost equally unpalatable alternatives: (1) maintaining my position of vigorous opposition to such a loan to the National University of Nicaragua, thus apparently further delaying completion of the loan which was generally regarded as acceptable as far as the other four countries are concerned and which by this time had been fully disclosed to the five universities and to the public; or (2) silencing my opposition and thus giving tacit assent to a loan which as far as Nicaragua is concerned I still sincerely believe has serious deficiencies with respect to the development of this country and to the interests and prestige of the United States in this country. Faced by what amounted practically to an accomplished fact, I had reluctantly to indicate adoption of the second alternative. We shall of course do whatever we can to help make it work to the benefit of all concerned.

With the above prelude, we are turning our attention to what we trust will be two constructive actions which should in our considered judgment be taken:

(1) We are urgently preparing a proposal for a bilateral program of aid to the private Central American University in

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Disseminated by: AMB/ASBrown:eb 12/14/62

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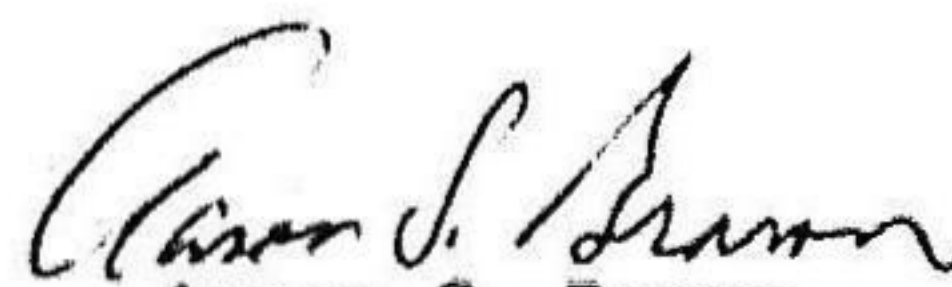
Managua, an institution which is slowly but so far surely being developed on sound academic and political lines with an amount of self-help effort on the part of all respected elements of the local community which is quite astonishing in the light of the usual Nicaraguan attitude of "criticize the government for not meeting all needs, but we would not think of doing it ourselves". We hope this proposal will meet with acceptance in Washington since approval will go part way toward repairing the damage of the CSUCA loan.

(2) We most earnestly urge that all of us, servants of the United States wherever we are, draw a useful lesson from this experience. I suggest that the other embassies in the area take particular note of this since the next time it may be their local point of view which may be over-ridden by the juggernaut of the regional approach. Is it not justified to propose that all of us be most thoroughly and carefully consulted in the early stages of consideration, and kept informed every step of the way? I am not suggesting that individual views could or should be controlling when larger interests are involved, but at least there could be prior interchange of views between the parties concerned, and the resultant decision could then well be more representative of the common effort. I am sure all agree that we should faithfully exercise our responsibility to point out potential pitfalls to Washington or ROCAP as the discussions proceed, but we cannot perform this responsibility if we are kept in the dark about the details and the issues at play. I do not intend at this stage to attack the new approach to some aid programs in Central America, because I join with others in believing in the principle of regional handling where economical and effective, but I think I must view with concern what appear to us to be inappropriate extensions of regional administration. For example, we are this week inquiring about local implementation of the regional textbook program, questioning aspects which as far as we know have not been considered and which intimately affect our operations and relationships with the local government. In addition, we have received disturbing indications, and so far they are only indications and we do not have anything like the full story, that ROCAP is moving toward involving secondary education in Nicaragua in the CSUCA framework. It would be most helpful to know what is going on here, but in the meantime we repeat our serious reservations about CSUCA as a chosen instrument. We wonder too whether it is desirable, at least at this stage, to handle regionally the delicate problems of secondary education.

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It is true that Nicaragua shares with her Latin American sisters many fundamental conditions and problems which lend themselves to generalized treatment. But it is also true that there are important differences, and it seems to us that it is at least wasteful and can in some cases be harmful to our interests to disregard local conditions and neglect opportunities provided by local variations in approach and timing.

  
Aaron S. Brown

NOTE: Department please send copies to  
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San Salvador, Tegucigalpa